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CYPRUS: President Makarios has rejected the latest Greek proposal aimed at a settlement of the dispute between the Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot communities.

Makarios and the Council of Ministers on 15 June unanimously rejected Athens' recommendation that Makarios make some concessions to the Turkish Cypriots to speed up the intercommunal negotiations. Athens believes that the proposals on 27 April by the Turkish Cypriot negotiator, Denktash, are negotiable. Makarios, however, viewed the Turkish Cypriot proposals for local autonomy as an attempt by the Turks to obtain a separate administration up through the top level of government.

Makarios has instructed Clerides, the Greek Cypriot negotiator, to present a "mildly phrased" rejection of the Turkish side's proposals at the next intercommunal meeting, on 23 June. At the same time, Clerides will probably propose establishment of a joint police force and joint judicial organs. The Greek Cypriots may hope that a mild rejection along with a few constructive suggestions will allow the Turkish Cypriots to continue the local talks. After the 23 June meeting, however, the negotiators are not scheduled to meet again until mid-July.

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